



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held May 13, 2003, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Assembly Bill 408 has been introduced by Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg to ensure that every child in the foster care system, regardless of age, is given the opportunity to find an adoptive home. There is a pervasive myth that no one wants to adopt an older child. Older children are, because of their age, labeled ‘unadoptable’ and no effort is made to find them a permanent home.

“AB 408 recommends the use of ‘child-specific recruitment,’ which is a nontraditional method of finding families for older children. Once a family is identified, successful strategies, including ongoing training and family support, is provided to maintain and sustain long-term relationships.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board take the following actions:

1. Go on record in support of AB 408 (Steinberg), legislation which would ensure that every child in the foster care system, regardless of age, is given the opportunity to find an adoptive home; and
2. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, Assemblymember Steinberg and the State Legislature urging the passage of AB 408.

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Although the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Children and Family Services support AB 408, they have concerns regarding workload costs and liability.”

Therefore, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich’s motion be amended to also instruct the County’s Legislative Advocates in Sacramento and the Director of Children and Family Services to work with the author and sponsors of AB 408 to resolve the County’s concerns regarding potential liability and to create a phased-in approach to implementation. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky’s amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich’s motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, was unanimously carried.

Later in the meeting, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Board reconsidered the foregoing motion to allow Miriam Krinsky, Executive Director of the Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles, to address the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of AB 408 (Steinberg), legislation which would ensure that every child in the foster care system, regardless of age, is given the opportunity to find an adoptive home;
2. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board to send a five-signature letter to Governor Davis, Assemblymember Steinberg and the State Legislature urging the passage of AB 408; and
3. Instructed the County’s Legislative Advocates in Sacramento and the Director of Children and Family Services to work with the author and sponsors of AB 408 to resolve the County’s concerns regarding potential liability and to create a phased-in approach to implementation.

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County Counsel